



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,607	08/30/2001	Martin C. Flautt	25035A	2480
22889	7590	12/22/2003	EXAMINER	
OWENS CORNING 2790 COLUMBUS ROAD GRANVILLE, OH 43023			GRAY, JILL M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1774	

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/943,607

Applicant(s)

FLAUTT ET AL

Examiner

Jill M. Gray

Art Unit

1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 1774

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The rejection of claims 5-7, 9 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is withdrawn in view of applicants' amendments. However, it is suggested that applicants delete all references to trademarks/tradenames for clarity of the claims and to eliminate any ambiguity as to the specific goods being claimed and the metes and bounds for which patent protection is being sought.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 and 10-28 and 31-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sage, Jr. 6,436,476 B1 in view of PCT Publication WO 91/15434 (Adizama) and Yamada et al, 4,427,482 (Yamada) for reasons of record.

Claims 8-9 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sage, Jr. 6,436,476 B1 in view of PCT Publication WO 91/15434 (Adizama) and Yamada et al, 4,427,482 (Yamada) as applied above to claims 1-7, 10-28, and 31-38, further in view of "EPI-CURE 3253" Product data sheet and Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Fourteenth Edition, page 366, for reasons of record.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Art Unit: 1774

Applicant's arguments filed October 8, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that neither Sage Jr., Yamada, nor Adizama et al alone or in combination, disclose a string binder, much less do they describe the formation of a composite article made from a string binder, further arguing that neither Sage Jr., Adizama et al, or Yamada, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the addition of a filler material to the string binder that reduces surface fiber prominence and blistering of composite articles.

In this regard, Sage Jr, Yamada and Adizama each teach a fibrous material having a resin binder. Accordingly, the prior art does teach string binders, as defined by applicants. As to the incorporation of a filler, Yamada specifically teaches that a calcium carbonate filler material can be to the resin. That Yamada adds his filler for a different purpose than applicants is of no moment.

Applicants argue that the additional references cited in the rejection against claims 8 and 9 similarly are not directed to a string binder and as such, claims 8 and 9 are non-obvious in view of the cited prior art.

As set forth above, the prior art teaches fibrous material having a resin binder, which by applicants' definition is a string binder.

Therefore, the examiner's position remains that the combined teachings of the prior art would have rendered obvious the invention as claimed in the present claims.

No claims are allowed.

***Conclusion***

Art Unit: 1774

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

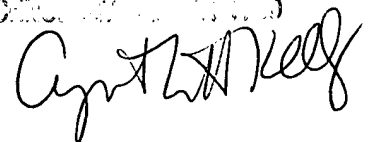
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill M. Gray whose telephone number is 703.308.2381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 703.308.0449. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.0651.

Jill M. Gray  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1774

CYNTHIA H. KELLY  
SUPERVISOR, ART UNIT 1774  
TECHNICAL STAFF



  
jmg